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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**RECEIVED**

In re PATENT APPLICATION of SCHMALJOHN AND HOOPER

Appln. No.: 09/491,974

Group Art Unit: 1632

MAR - 5 2002

Filed: January 27, 2000

Examiner: P. Brunovskis, P.

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Title: DNA Vaccine Against Hantavirus Infection

February 22, 2002

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks. **Please calculate fees due after entering this amendment.**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1, 3, 4, ~~7~~, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16-20, 22, 23, 26 and 27 without prejudice or disclaimer, and replace them with the following new claims 28-51.

--28. (New) A composition comprising

(a) an inert particle suitable for carrying a polynucleotide stably coated thereon,  
and

(b) a polynucleotide coated onto the particle, which polynucleotide comprises a promoter operative in a mammalian cell and a hantavirus M gene segment encoding a G1 glycoprotein and a G2 glycoprotein.